

MHDS COMMISSION
September 16, 2021
9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Zoom – Approved 10/21/2021

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin	Timothy Perkins
Sarah Berndt	Jeff Sorensen
Diane Brecht	Maria Sorensen
Teresa Daubitz	Cory Turner
Janee Harvey	Richard Whitaker
Rep. Lindsay James	Russell Wood
June Klein-Bacon	Lorrie Young

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rep. Dennis Bush	Shari O'Bannon
Sen. Jeff Edler	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Don Kass	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong	Tami Gilliland	Dawn Mentzer
Kris Bell	Alison Hauser	Chris Olson
Emily Berry	Sandi Hurtado-Peters	John Parmeter
Teresa Bomhoff	Michael Jenkins	Katie Peck
Elis Bondarowicz	Gretchen Kraemer	Cheryl Plank
Lisa Bringle	Todd Lange	Libby Reekers
Rebecca Brommel	Adrienne LaToure	Jennifer Robbins
Morgan Casey	Aimee Lenth	Flora Schmidt
Rachel Cecil	Bob Lincoln	Susan Seehase
Katie Cownie	Tracy Liptak	Sandy Swanson
Liz Cox	Julie Maas	Francie Tuescher
Wendy DePhillips	Stacie Maass	Gano Whetstone
Jennifer Erixon	James Maize	Ryanne Wood
Mike Fidgeon	Carrie Malone	
Louise Galbraith	Susan Martin	

Materials Referenced:

August 19, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes
Optimae LifeServices Letter to MHDS Commission
Letters of Support for Optimae LifeServices
IBHA Letter of Opposition to MHDS Commission
21-017 MHDS Cash Flow Rules Adopted and Filed
21-030 MHDS Incentive Fund Emergency Rules Packet
21-031 MHDS Incentive Fund Noticed Rules Packet
MHDS Commission 2021 MCO Executive Summary - DRAFT
MHDS Commission 2021 Annual Report – WORKING DRAFT

Welcome and Introductions

Russell Wood called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with twelve voting members attending virtually.

Review and Vote on Approval of August 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Lorrie Young made a motion to approve the August 19, 2021, meeting minutes. Richard Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for Interim CMHC Designation

Russell Wood provided a background overview related to Optimae's previous request to be designated a community mental health center (CMHC), and the subsequent action taken by the MHDS Commission to table all CMHC designations, including Optimae's request until administrative rules related to CMHCs were approved. Optimae representatives presented their request for an interim CMHC designation for Lee, Jefferson and Des Moines counties, referencing their letter sent to the MHDS Commission along with multiple letters of support.

There was discussion regarding how the interim designation would change what Optimae is currently doing, the purpose and need for the rules, as well as concerns regarding how providing an interim designation would affect other provider applications that are currently on hold pending approval of the rules. There was discussion regarding how to handle the request as the Commission previously approved the motion to table pending approval of the rules. It was determined that the Commission could make a new motion or keep the motion tabled.

Russell Wood entertained a motion to approve Optimae LifeServices request for interim designation until the CMHC rules were final. Jeff Sorensen motioned to approve interim designation and was seconded by Sarah Berndt. There was discussion regarding if the interim CMHC status would go away when rules were in place, and if all CMHCs would have to apply. The motion was denied with eight members voting nay, two members voting aye, and two members abstaining.

Consider Approval of Administrative Rules regarding IAC 441 Chapter 25, Disability Services Management

Theresa Armstrong presented the rule package on IAC 441 Chapter 25.14 related to Regional Governance Agreements for approval of the rules. Theresa noted that there was no public comment after the approval to notice the rules was given in June 2021, and no additional changes had been made. Tim Perkins motioned to approve the rules. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the rule package was approved unanimously.

Consider Approval of Emergency Administrative Rules regarding IAC 441 Chapter 25, Disability Services Management

Theresa Armstrong presented the emergency rule package on IAC 441 Chapter 25 related to the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Regions Incentive Fund for both approval of the emergency rules and notice of the rules. Emergency rule-making authority was granted to DHS in section 109 of Senate file 619. The rules implement the process for a region to apply for incentive funds specifically in SFY2022 and SFY2023, establishes the criteria for eligibility, and sets a time frame for review and approval of applications as well as reporting and financial review. Emergency

rules are submitted for approval to notice and approval of the rules concurrently. Lorrie Young motioned to approve the rule package for both notice and approval. Betsy Akin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the rule package for notice and approval was approved unanimously.

Discussion on Managed Care Executive Summary

Russell Wood led the review of the Managed Care Organization (MCO) Executive Summary 2021 document. Changes made to the document included updating the list of efforts to address. Diane Brecht made a motion to approve the Managed Care Executive Summary 2021 with amendments. Sarah Berndt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

Rich Whitaker reported that the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board met on September 14, 2021. Rich reviewed the highlights of the meeting.

- Updates were given by Brad Niebling from the Iowa Department of Education and Kelly Garcia, Director, Iowa Department of Human Services.
- Positive discussion about metrics, including a review and discussion of the top 10 metrics that the Children's Board is looking at related to behavioral health.
- Marissa Eyanson, Mental Health Administrator, Iowa Department of Human Services updated Board members about the MHDS Regions performance-based contracts as well as the emergency rules being submitted related to the MHDS incentive fund.
- Very informative parent presentation discussing the lack of services in the state specifically having to take her child to Baltimore, MD for 3-week program. The program was for both the parent and child together and helped significantly in moving things in a positive direction. There were other services offered in the state that helped following this program.
- The Board is focusing on strategic planning, including deciding on workgroups, which include workforce, stakeholder engagement, data collection, and research. Moving forward the Board wants to ensure they are addressing gaps in services and providing the data support necessary to help children and families in crisis. Regions have illustrated a renewed emphasis on children's services at their level.

There was discussion regarding the need at wraparound type care for families, and the need for the state to more effectively provide support parents and families who have kids in crisis, and how this could fit within the discussion happening in the Children's Board workgroups, specifically the research group. There was also discussion regarding the need for family engagement in addition to stakeholder engagement, and if there were administrative rules with unintended consequences that have added to this issue.

MHDS Update

HHS Alignment

A connections report was issued last month and can be found on the HHS Alignment webpage <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov>. This report includes work that the contractor has done with interviews, meeting with internal groups, and surveys looking at the areas of connection. The next step is to take the report and work with internal change teams that will look at these connecting points including accessing systems, services contracts, etc. to determine what was missed and recommendations moving forward. These change teams include behavioral health, disability and

aging, adult protective services, child protective services, childcare, early childhood, and maternal health. The contractor is also reaching out to external stakeholders for more input and having more conversations as well as providing additional updates.

Administrative Rules

Other rules related to SF619 that will affect Chapter 25 related to MHDS Regions are currently being developed. A meeting has been set for October 9, 2021, to review these rules with the MHDS Commission Rules Committee as well as additional Regional CEOs. The CEOs that were assigned to participate include, Liz Cox from Polk County MHDS Region, Mae Hingten from the East Central MHDS Region, and Shane Walter from the Sioux Rivers MHDS Region. DHS is currently targeting the December 2021 MHDS Commission meeting to bring this rule package for consideration of notice of the rules.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

- The Systems of Care (SOC) RFP has been issued. SOC is a service with a strong service coordination and offer dollars to wraparound services that may not be accessible (e.g. BHIS). Currently there are four teams operating in the state. DHS is using additional block grant dollars issued by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand SOC to two additional teams so there will be six teams operating in the state. Proposals are due October 13th, and DHS hopes to announce the successful bidder by the middle of November with contract start dates January 1st.
- The Peer-Operated Services RFP went out yesterday, which are peer support services and programs that are owned and operated by individuals with lived experience. The RFP is to provide support for up to four programs throughout the state by either assisting with expansion of a current program or adding a new one. Proposals are due October 15th, and DHS hopes to announce the successful bidder by November 15th and have a December 1st contract start date.
- Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) has also issued a large RFP on September 3, 2021. This is one of the items related to the use of their American Rescue Plan dollars for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). It is called Program Evaluation and Analysis for Iowans with Disabilities and Behavioral Health Needs. A very large study looking at the behavioral health, aging and disability services system, including state agencies responsible and funding sources. Looking for a national expert to conduct research and analysis, and to provide technical assistance. It will be a 3–5-year project.

Regional Performance-Based Contracts

SFY619 moved MHDS funds from the county property tax levy to state appropriations. DHS is entering into performance-based contracts with the MHDS Regions due to this change. It has been a very collaborative process between DHS staff and Regional CEOs. There are specific requirements based on Iowa Code. DHS needs to have a baseline for where Regions are currently at and make sure that certain things are done consistently across the state. DHS staff will be joining the Regions' current data collection workgroup to work on standardized definitions and data elements as well as a standardized tool for collection. DHS and Regions will also be participating in a workgroup on evidence-based practices (EBPs). Regions have required EBPs and are working on developing providers that can do the EBPs to fidelity. The workgroup will be looking at the increased use of EBPs, developing training and expertise, as well as the review of the EBPs.

9-8-8 Implementation Plan

Iowa Department of Public Health and the Department of Human Services have been working together along with a stakeholder coalition to develop a successful implementation plan for the National Crisis Line to move from a ten-digit number to 988. The draft implementation plan is due at the end of September to Vibrant who is subcontracting for SAMHSA.

There was discussion regarding Your Life Iowa and how that fits in with 988 as well as the need to make sure individuals are aware of this service. There was additional discussion Foundation 2, who answers the current national crisis line and will continue when the line switches to 988. It was noted that Foundation 2 also dispatches mobile crisis for some regions and if there will be issues when things change with the implementation of 988.

ASPIRE Grant

The state was awarded this grant to provide technical assistance to implement Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) which is a EBP for supported employment. Three agencies have been named as early adopters to implement IPS. These agencies include Hope Haven, Vera French, and Robert Young. There is also a contract with the University of Iowa Centers for Disabilities Development to hire a statewide trainer of this model to assist with ensuring fidelity.

Inpatient Bed Tracking Study Committee

Required by last legislative session, the group is still meeting. The September meeting will focus on the current system by Five Points Technology and what more is needed. The October meeting will be reviewing a draft of their report that is due to the legislature in December.

Public Comment

Flora Schmidt, Executive Director, Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA) commented regarding IBHA's letter to the MHDS Commission clarifying their position and emphasized points made by MHDS Commission members during the discussion portion of the CMHC designation agenda item.

Break

The MHDS Commission took a lunch break from 11:47 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

2021 Annual Report Discussion

Lorrie Young led the Commission through a review of the legislative priorities for the 2021 Annual Report. The Commission discussed additions to the legislative priorities based on comments made at the meeting in July, and how those comments should be integrated into the report. Revisions were made based on this discussion and will be brought back to the Commission for further consideration at the October meeting.

Planning for Future Meetings

Lorrie Young asked if there were any items that members would like included on the agenda for future meetings. Commission members discussed inviting Managed Care Organization (MCO) decision makers for a panel discussion to respond to recommendations from the MCO Executive Summary document.

It was noted that the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (IMHPC) had submitted a recommendation to have a presentation at the joint meeting for the MHDS Commission and the IMHPC in October about the new University of Iowa Center for School Mental Health. Commission members discussed and determined that this would be a good presentation for the joint meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

Rich Whitaker motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by June Klein-Bacon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.